

COA Meeting, May 4, 2022

Attended by: Roberta Lynch, Bob Heald (2020), Rich Ryder (2021), Laurel Scotti, Katie Robinson, Sarah Hannafin, Nancy Gerstel; Guest – Neil Sanders

Date in (2020) = expiration date of term for Council On Aging Board Members

Roll Call to Order: 9:35 a.m.

Motion to Approve April 2022 Minutes: YES – 4 NO - 0 – Minutes Approved

NEIL:

- Community Garden site should be ADA compliant per Deb Barrows – it currently is without bathroom facilities and a cinder or asphalt walkway for wheelchairs. Neil was requesting garden space at The Center and use of the bathroom facilities. Community Garden currently has 1 handicapped gardener. Also a 3' high raised bed is practical for handicapped.

ROBERTA: The current raised wooden garden frames are for our Respite Program. The Center is not open 7 days a week, so no access to bathrooms. How would water be available to gardens? What about handicapped Port-A-Potty units for the current garden site? Where does money come from for this work (walkway)?

- NEIL: Gardeners usually only come 1-2 times a week to tend their plot. Water spigots are up the front of the community gardens.

LAUREL: Isn't the current idea that it is advisable to integrate handicapped persons into a non-handicapped environment, such as in schools?

NEIL: Will take feedback to Community Garden.

ROBERTA:

- Conducting Social Worker interviews.
- New Respite Program workers: Elaine Owens and Ann Hunter. Elaine feels there are too many people in program – 12 attend currently. Ann used to sub with Kathy and Trish so she is familiar with program.
- Walkway estimates continuing. If cost is over \$10,000, will need 3 quotes. Roberta would like walkway finished before summer: includes front entryway to building.
 - Laurel suggested applying for a grant through Needham Bank.
 - Roberta and Laurel to investigate what grants are out there. Laurel will call banks to ask what grants are out there for pickleball courts and Roberta will contact Kevin Ryder at Park & Rec.
- May 7 Lions Club event at The Center

SARAH:

- Volunteer dinner had 50 people to a Hot Dog Bar – very successful.
- 8 Medical Rides filled in April.
- Contacted advertisers for renewal of their ad in our newsletter.
- 12 of 61 tax work-off people have completed their hours.